



U.S. Agency for International Development

USAID - Plan Colombia:

Colombia

U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FACT SHEET

WASHINGTON, DC 20523
PRESS OFFICE
<http://www.usaid.gov>
(202) 712-4320

00-236

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, August 23, 2000

Contact: Joseph Schultz

BUDGET: \$120.5 million

PROGRAM: Economic, Social and Institutional Development

\$18 million Support for the Push into Southern Colombia
\$74 million Alternative and Economic Development
\$28.5 million Human Rights and Judicial Reform

SUPPORT FOR THE PUSH INTO SOUTHERN COLOMBIA \$18 million

1. Coca Eradication in Southern Colombia \$10 million

- USAID will assist the Government of Colombia agency PLANTE to provide both social and economic incentives to help farmers and communities voluntarily eliminate coca and develop sustainable agricultural and livestock alternatives in six municipalities in the department of Putumayo and four in Caqueta.
 - Agricultural incentives will include modern production technologies, processing, financial services, marketing, and assistance to producer organizations and possibly vocational training, technical workshops, and food security activities.
 - In remote coca-producing areas legal production will include agro-forestry and tree cropping programs tailored towards indigenous populations.
- USAID-funded activities will help improve access to schools, health services, potable water, sewerage and electricity.
- USAID will contribute to the voluntary abandonment of 7,800 hectares of small-farmer coca production that will directly impact approximately 3,400 farm families, or 17,000 people in Putumayo and Caqueta.
- Initial efforts will be begin in September 2000 in the Putumayo municipalities of Puerto Guzman, Villa Garzon, Puerto Caicedo, and Puerto Asis, expanding into Caqueta in early 2001.

2. Assistance To Internally Displaced Persons in Southern Colombia

\$ 8 million

- USAID will work through U.S. NGOs, International Organizations and their Colombian counterparts to deliver mid to long-term assistance to displaced persons in five departments of southern Colombia.
- To stabilize communities, promote democratic participation, and support access to social services USAID will focus on providing better health and education services, shelter, employment opportunities, and vocational training.
- Stronger local ability to provide social services and the ability of international organizations to assist in returning or relocating displaced people will increase stability in communities where displaced persons live.

ALTERNATIVE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

TOTAL: \$74 million

1. Nationwide Coca Eradication

\$30 million

- USAID will work with PLANTE to provide farmers and communities with legal alternatives to the production of coca and develop sustainable agricultural and livestock alternatives in the departments of Bolivar and Norte de Santander.
 - Agricultural incentives will include modern production technologies, processing, financial services, marketing, and assistance to producer organizations and possibly vocational training, technical workshops, and food security activities.
 - In remote coca-producing areas legal production will include agro-forestry and tree cropping programs tailored towards indigenous populations.
- USAID-funded activities will help improve access to schools, health services, potable water, sewerage and electricity.
- USAID will contribute to the voluntary abandonment of 5,400 hectares of small-farmer coca production - 2,000 in Bolivar, and 3,400 in Norte de Santander - that will directly impact approximately 2,350 farm families, or 11,750 people.
- USAID will continue to assist PLANTE with the voluntary abandonment of 2,600 hectares of opium poppy in mountainous areas of central Colombia.

2. Environmental Aspects of Voluntary Eradication

\$2.5 million

- USAID will assist the Colombian government to promote sustainable alternative crop production in lieu of coca or opium poppy.
- Activities will include integrated pest management training for producer groups, promoting sustainable forest management, and coordinating cross-border environmental programs between southern Colombia and northern Ecuador.
- Agro-forestry systems in the remote tropical lowland regions will be tailored to the financial and ecological conditions of small farms.

3. Local Government Assistance

\$22 million

- USAID assistance to local governments in areas where alternative development is active will help build a more transparent, responsive and participatory democracy.
- Building on alternative development and civil society programs, local government assistance will enable local governments to improve efficiency and accountability in the delivery of social services and increase citizen participation and oversight.
- Technical assistance and support will be provided to popularly elected local government officials and their constituents in order to help them to fulfill their social service functions. For example, grants will be offered to strengthen local social infrastructure - schools, health and community centers.

4. Assistance for Internally Displaced Persons Nationwide

\$19.5 million

- USAID will work through U.S. NGOs, International Organizations and their Colombian counterparts to deliver assistance to mid to long-term displaced persons along the Pacific Coast, in Uraba, and along the Caribbean coast.
- To stabilize communities, promote democratic participation, and support access to social services USAID will provide better health, education and justice services, shelter, employment opportunities, and vocational training.
- Stronger local ability to provide social services combined with international organizations assisting in returning or relocating displaced people will increase stability in communities where the displaced persons live.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND JUDICIAL REFORM

TOTAL: \$28.5 million

**1. Protection of Human Rights Workers
\$4 million**

- USAID will strengthen and complement the Ministry of Interior and local NGO program which provides basic protective measures such as bodyguards, radio communication networks, bullet-proof vests, armored vehicles, metal detectors, and reinforced doors for human rights organizations, their workers and the country's labor unions.

**2. Strengthening Human Rights Institutions
\$7 million**

- In concert with Colombian government agencies and civil society organizations already working for human rights, this program will improve the capacity of human rights institutions and groups to make citizens aware of their rights, document human rights violations, and monitor individual cases.
- USAID will assist the government of Colombia in implementing an early warning system in areas of conflict that will provide information about increasingly dangerous conditions that could lead to murders and other grave human rights abuses.
- USAID will help improve information systems and monitoring mechanisms currently used to track and report abuses and to monitor investigations and prosecution by government authorities.

**3. Judicial System Policy Reform
\$1 million**

- USAID will assist the Superior Judicial Council and the Ministry of Justice to streamline court procedures, promote informed public debate, and increase public trust in the administration of criminal justice.

**4. Criminal Code Reform
\$1.5 million**

- USAID, in concert with the U.S. Department of Justice, will support Colombia's transition to a modern accusatorial system of criminal justice. Funding will assist Colombia in implementing and modifying its criminal procedure code, criminal code and related statutes.
- Implementation will include introduction and training in oral, accusatory, and transparent trial procedures, and adoption and implementation of effective investigative techniques.
- Code reform will be paired with a public education program to ensure due process and transparency and to gain public trust and confidence in the criminal justice system.

**5. Judges Training and Oral Courts
\$3.5 million**

- USAID, in concert with the U.S. Department of Justice, will work with the Superior Judicial Council to increase the transparency and efficiency of courts through the use of oral, accusatory criminal trial procedures.
- Training of prosecutors and police in the oral accusatory system will be carried out by the

U.S. Department of Justice in coordination with the USAID program.

6. Casas de Justicia
\$1 million

- USAID will create 8 new Casas de Justicia (Justice Houses) to make community legal aid, mediation services, and basic social services broadly accessible to Colombians in poorer neighborhoods.
- These USAID-supported centers include a public defender, prosecutor, an ombudsman, and conflict mediators, as well as a family welfare institute and social workers.

7. Public Defender Program
\$2 million

- Increased numbers of trained public defenders will improve legal representation and enhance human rights improvements for poor defendants.
- Additional public defenders will be trained and placed throughout Colombia in high priority areas, including Putumayo. Public defenders will also have a role in monitoring and reporting on observation of human rights of defendants and sentenced offenders.

8. Prevention of Corruption
\$3 million

- USAID will work with the Ministry of Interior to strengthen Colombia's municipal financial controls and increase citizen oversight of public resources.
- With the Controller General, USAID will establish internal controls and procedures, train audit staff, and assist adoption of modern audit techniques.
- NGOs will receive funding to organize awareness campaigns and support citizen oversight committees.

9. Conflict Management and Peace Process
\$3 million

- USAID will assist NGOs, universities and other civil society groups to gather data to conduct studies, facilitate forums for dialogue, and inform the discussion of issues that surround the peace negotiations.

10. Rehabilitation of Child Soldiers
\$2.5 million

- USAID will assist the government of Colombia and NGOs to prepare for the demobilization of child soldiers and their reintegration into society.
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USAID - Plan Colombia:

Bolivia

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BUDGET: \$85 million

PROGRAM: Economic, Social and Institutional Development

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) will utilize Plan Colombia funds for Bolivia to initiate Economic, Social and Institutional Development - alternative development - in the Yungas region and further strengthen such development activities in the Chapare region. Funding will be split between operations in the regions with approximately two-thirds for the Chapare and one-third for the Yungas.

USAID's Economic, Social and Institutional Development program in Bolivia currently averages less than \$15 million per year. The \$85 million Plan Colombia supplemental for Bolivia constitutes a significant increase in aid to Bolivia.

- **Yungas Region: \$30 million**

The USAID Bolivia Mission will launch a quick-start, high-impact development program to assist the government of Bolivia achieve its goal of eradicating surplus coca from the region, and prevent its resurgence. Funding will finance community development programs, road maintenance and improvements, income-enhancing activities, increased local government development, and the delivery of health services.

- **Chapare Region: \$55 million** In the Chapare, USAID will broaden and deepen its assistance to former coca growers who have already eradicated coca crops but not yet received economic, social or institutional aid. This assistance will enhance high value crop production and food security, provide stone road paving, electricity and agricultural-processing centers, agro-forestry, and financial services to strengthen the self-sustaining process of alternative development.
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U.S. Agency for International Development

USAID - Plan Colombia:

Ecuador

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BUDGET: \$8 million

PROGRAM: Economic, Social and Institutional Development

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) will utilize Plan Colombia funds for Ecuador to strengthen local governments and organizations, and help them to provide reliable public services to the Ecuadorian people - thus enabling Ecuador to improve the responsiveness of democratic institutions in the region.

Efforts will mainly focus on the three northern provinces bordering Colombia:

- Sucumbios
- Carchi
- Esmeraldas

A more effective presence of local government, organizations and the private sector in the northern Ecuadorian provinces will promote a more stable society through enhanced economic and social development - thus helping to discourage Colombian narco-traffickers and coca and poppy growers from possibly moving their operations south into Ecuador.

Ecuador's political and socio-economic difficulties are such that the country faces dramatically escalating poverty, disorder within the banking and financial systems, a breakdown in political processes and disillusionment with the country's democratic institutions. General U.S. assistance to Ecuador administered by USAID helps reduce poverty through microenterprise development; strengthens the judicial system; conserves biodiversity through improved management of natural resources; and increases access to sustainable family planning and maternal child health services. Along the Peru-Ecuador border, USAID is helping improve social and economic conditions in support of the 1998 resolution of a 150-year border dispute.

USAID Plan Colombia funding will build upon the agency's current development activities in Ecuador and bolster efforts at combating poverty and strengthening democracy.
